

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC Sec. 112**

Claim 20-37, particularly their parent Claims 21 and 30, were rejected because of the limitation of a "web" in line 3 of Claim 21 and in line 5 of Claim 30, found no identification in the specification or drawings. The function of a "web" member, ie "One of the structural elements connecting the top and bottom flanges of a lattice girder or the outside members of a truss (see The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 2000) is performed by the hinge member (34) between the sections of the spine binder, as shown and described in the specification.

To cure the problem referenced by the examiner, applicant has deleted the language "by a web" in currently amended Claim 30, and in new Claim 38, which is old now cancelled Claim 21, the limitation "a web on said spine dividing said strip into longitudinal sections" has been stricken and the limitation —said hinge member on said spine dividing said strip into longitudinal sections— has been added.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC Sec. 102**

Claims 1-23, 26, and 28-29, which were all the claims finally rejected in the Office action now responded to, have been cancelled.

**Present Claim Amendments**

The following claims remain in this application, as shown in the attached Listing of Claims:

**Independent Claim 30, as currently amended, and its dependent Claims 31-37 -**

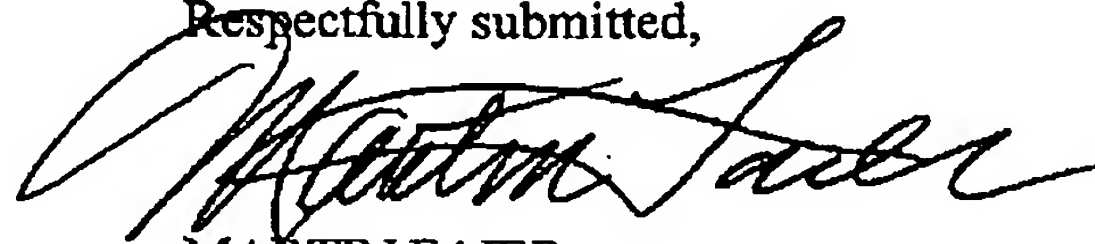
Claim 30 was found "allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC 112 set forth in (the) Office action", and applicant has so amended the claim. Claims 31-37 were found "allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC 112, set forth in (the) Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and applicant has so amended the Claims.

**Independent Claim 38, as now presented, and its dependent Claims 24 and 27-**

Claim 38 is former now cancelled Claim 21, rewritten to eliminate the Section 112 objection and to include the limitation former found in allowable Claim 20. Claims 24 and 27, formerly incorrectly dependent upon Claim 1 (which had been cancelled), are now dependent upon new Claim 38, and these two Claims were found "allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims", and applicant has amended the base Claim 38 as noted and amended these allowable claims to be dependent on Claim 38.

The claims as now presented are patentable in view of the foregoing discussion and early allowance is solicited. This response places the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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